



COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO

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July 1995



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

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Ø BEAT



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ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see last page of this publication. The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26, 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. at 7PM.

Deadline for submission of articles or ads is the 20th of each month. Submissions may be sent to the Editor or to the club PO box. Permission to reprint articles is granted provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

ADVERTISING RATES: Full page \$48; half page \$24; quarter page \$12; business card \$8. These are monthly rates and are billed quarterly. Send your ad requests and payments to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935.

Committee Chairpersons, etc.

Publicity	Al Craig	694-9288
Membership	Les Borst	634-3995
Education	Al Bailey	697-8514
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	596-5345
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	Renay Boyes	633-5660
Club Historian	Al Craig	594-9288
Falcon Wanderers	Bob Nyman	574-5161
Programs	John Martin	531-6369
Swapfest	Harvey Hunter	597-8964
Finance	open	

Reminder - July Meeting

The next meeting of the PPRAA will be held on Wednesday, July 12th at the Disabled American Veterans Hall located at 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. The program will be presented by Edge of Space Science.

Radio Exams

Radio Examinations are sponsored by the PPRAA on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Testing takes place at 9:00 AM at:

Denver Technical College(DTC)
225 South Union
Colorado Springs

Everyone is treated on a walk-in basis. Those wishing to take an examination should bring the following item.

1. \$5.90 (preferably a check or money order made out to ARRL/VEC) for any exam other than element 1A or 2.
2. Picture identification.
3. A copy of your current amateur license as well as the signed original. A copy of any examination credit you have, as well as the original. We keep the copies.
4. A pen, pencils, and a calculator if you need one.

If you have any further questions please call Erik Mugele, N5XYX at 596-5345. Please do not call DTC, they only provide us the rooms for testing, and they do not have any further information concerning the testing.



The View from the Peak

by George Hinds, N8CIX/0

"Oklahoma City"

The following is a summation of an interview with Frank McCollom, NSFM, the Oklahoma City/Salvation Army Coordinator, conducted by Mick Ware, KAORDE, editor of The Taylor County (IA) Amateur Radio Newsletter.

While the world waited, watched and prayed for the outcome of survivors of one of the worst disasters against innocent victims in the United States, over 300 Amateur Radio Operators participated in every way they could at the disaster scene involving the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building.

Operators came from all over: locals, of course, plus hams from Kansas, Texas and Arkansas. Within 15 minutes of the blast, John Zilavy, KC5DRI, who heard the news on his car radio, had opened the communications station at the Salvation Army headquarters in OKC (which serves Oklahoma and Arkansas) and was taking check-ins from hams offering help. The station, as set up previously by McCollum, includes packet radio, VHF, HF and Civil Defense radio equipment. "Packet was a disappointment to me because we didn't have portable packet down there and we didn't have trained packet operators to run it. We just turned it off. Those people who think that when a disaster comes, cellular phones are the answer, had better check with some these places that have had disasters."

"It was a Salvation Army operation from the beginning," said the veteran amateur. While credit was given to other organizations, much to the Red Cross, Frank said it was the Salvation Army that provided the main support, food, material procurement and delivery to the rescue personnel working on site. It was Amateur Radio that provided the communications to get this task accomplished.

Different than most emergency situations was the lack of "health and welfare" traffic—the FBI shut down any information about survivors or potential survivors. Cameras were not allowed and special photo ID cards were soon supplied to all authorized personnel.

The "Command Center" is located at a building about 55 blocks distant from the disaster scene. It's easy for users to access in the area and most all know it's the system to use for emergencies, real or simulated. The Center provided amateurs to accompany food canteens, two Red Cross units, a medical unit, and four transports including pickups and four wheel drives.

When something was needed to or from the "pit area" (Federal Building site) it was the job of the radio operators to get it transported. In the case of supplies, the need was called to the command center, supplies located, and then transported. Frank reported some "strange stuff" was called for in this emergency: 100 body bags! And Vicks® salve! "I wondered what they would use that for," said Frank, "and was told it was to put under the rescue workers' noses so they wouldn't smell this." (ed. obviously the odor of death).

Operation at the Center was generally on two channels: a main for net communications, with a secondary net for associated traffic (check-ins for duty, tech talk, etc.) On duty continuously at the Center to handle the AR communications was a supervisor, one or more radio operators and a "logger" to record traffic handled.

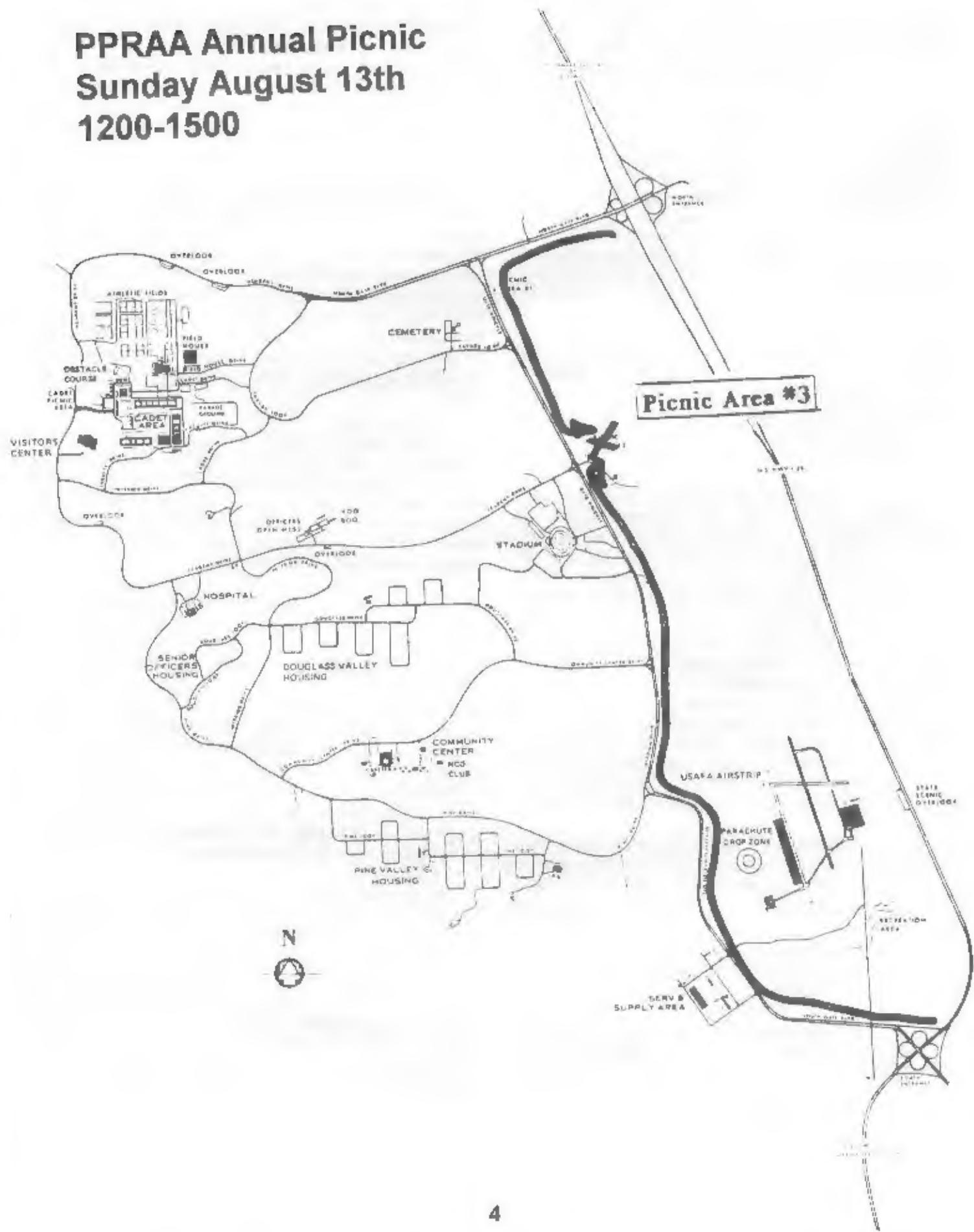
McCollom said he asked Salvation Army officials why they made no appeal for funds, as the Red Cross did (and raised over \$5 million in four days). The answer: "The Lord knows who is doing the work."

When asked about the hams who came to help, McCollom said, "You know all these old mossbacks who always told me they knew all this ... didn't come out and help with this either... I was amazed when I noticed that a lot of the guys [volunteering] were 'no code' hams: KC5's, the most recent calls issued." They didn't know all the answers, but they asked questions, got answers, and did the job," Frank said.

A big problem for those work at the disaster: the media. You can't keep them away; they get in somehow and have tape recorders and microphones everywhere to snatch what is said by volunteers. They also have scan scanners; nothing said over the air is safe from eavesdropping, including cellular. When hams work a disaster of this nature, they must pause and think about what they say, and who may hear it.

Last but not least: a portable repeater would be a great asset.

**PPRAA Annual Picnic
Sunday August 13th
1200-1500**



Dits and Bits

For Sale:

Brother Laser Printer model HL 630. Never out of original box. Bargain while it lasts \$340.00. Frank, NØIEM 596-7980.

For Sale:

Tubes: 811A \$25, 807 \$12, 2E24 \$10, many other types below list price. Call me for my list! Portable Computer: HP 110 with two diskette drives, printer, manuals, cases, asking \$120. Travel clock radio: Realistic 12-626, digital, asking \$15. Cassette recorder: Realistic CTR-78, asking \$15. Tape eraser: GC Electronics 30-140, asking 415. Scanner: Bearcat BC 100XTL, handheld, 16 channel programmable, asking \$70. Stereo: Nikko NR-550 digital receiver with two sony bookshelf speakers, asking \$65. Workbench: Cleared off another one, FREE. Antique Radio: Philco 41-285 free standing wooden cabinet w/"loctal" tubes (12) field coil speaker and overseas aerial system, asking \$300. Camera: Nikon N2000 self wind, automatic w/ Tokina 28-70 mm zoom lens, w/ case and instructions, asking \$210. Stereo: Proton 930 digital receiver w/ two Infinity Qa speakers, asking \$275. Mixing console: Biamp 1624 16 channel (16x4x2x1) W/ stereo/mono mains and stereo monitors w/ carrying case for the road, asking \$1100. Graphic Equalizer: EQ27A mono one-third octave 27-band balanced or unbalanced, asking \$175. Outdoor phone bell: Realistic 43-177, asking \$15. Autosound slide brackets: for your "pull out mobile", asking \$4 ea. Antenna wire or hook-up wire: Royal electric switchboard wire, #14 7-strand tinned type SIS grey insulation, 500ft. asking \$20. Cal Steve KØCI 598-3554.

For Sale:

Larsen KD14-2M-HW 2M Telescoping Gain Ant. New 32.50 sell 21.00
MFJ-1730 Roll-up J-pole new 14.95 sell 10.00
Valor MM270B 2M/440 Micro-mag mt. ant. new 56.60 sell 33.00
Larsen NMO-CAP rain cap new 3.25 sell 2.00

Larsen NMO -K used Perm 3/4" hole mt for NMO new 13.00 sell 7.00
Larsen NMO-TLM trunk mount new 25.95 sell 17.00
Larsen NMO-150-CO 2M 5/8 coll only new 29.95 sell 17.00
MFJ -1702N 2-pos ant. switch (N) new 31.00 sell 21.00
Uniden Bearcat 1--XL 16-channel scanner new 189.00 sell 95.00
Contact WBØMHP 598-1441

For Sale:

1298 MHZ 55-element beam antenna. TONNA F9-FT. Will deliver in local area. \$65.00
Radio Shack DSP signal processor. Like new, \$55.00.
Call Ron NKØP 593-8352

PPRAA Annual Picnic

Be sure to reserve Sunday, August 13th for our annual picnic and mini swapfest which will be held again this year at the USAF Academy picnic area #3 from 12 noon to 3 pm.

This years picnic prize will be a Radio Shack 2-meter FM amplifier w/preamp and helical resonator to cut down intermod. Tickets \$1 at July and August meetings and at picnic day.

Don't forget to bring your favorite covered dish or whatever to share. Also a utensil to serve it with. The following is for your guidance:

Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and coffee will be provided by the PPRAA.

A through M bring salad, chips, veggies, baked beans, etc.

N through Z bring fruit, pie, cake, cookies, candy, etc.

Bring lawn chairs so that you don't have to sit on the ground and share with the ants.

We will need a few volunteers to help clean up. Please volunteer. You will be handsomely rewarded with surplus pie, cake, cookies, etc. Talk-in will be on 146.520.

The PPRAA August Board Meeting will be held immediately following the picnic.

For more information please call Luci, NØOUD at 636-1290 or Ron, NKØP at 593-8352.

PPRAA

July 1995

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PPRAA
August 1995

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ILLEGAL USE OF HAM EQUIPMENT ON NON-HAM FREQUENCIES

by David Banks NØION

At about 1450 hours on May 25, 1995, I was monitoring 154.325 MHz (the Pikes Peak Fire Net or "RED Channel" repeater) which is used for the emergency dispatch of most rural fire departments in El Paso County. Suddenly I heard a ham operator calling another ham, just as if it was on a ham frequency and using correct ham ID procedures. This happened again after there was no reply the first time.

"Oh, I must be on the wrong radio channel," I thought. I'm a firefighter and often use the extended receive capability of my ham transceiver to monitor various fire channels. But no -- I was on the right channel which unfortunately meant that the calling ham was on the wrong frequency! I checked my club roster, found the callsign, and quickly placed a phone call to the ham I'd heard, but I was only able to reach an answering machine on which I left a brief message.

Now I've been a ham for 30 years and firmly believe in policing our own. But I'm also a member of the Pikes Peak Firefighters Association Radio Committee which is bound to uphold the rules and regulations both of the El Paso County Sheriff, the licensees of that fire channel, and of the FCC. I also knew that the Sheriff's dispatchers must have heard that transmission and may have been intending to take action against the readily-identifiable ham. So, after some consultation, I volunteered to handle the matter through the Interference Committee of the PPRAA in the hope of heading off any more serious repercussions.

I called Bill Petty, NØNJPX, the chairman of the Interference Committee, and supplied him with all the information I had along with some concerns. He agreed to pursue the matter and called me back later with his findings. He was able to confirm my suspicion that the incident was indeed an innocent mistake but caused by the use of the wrong channel on a ham radio which had been modified for out-of-band operation. Also, the ham turned out to be a member of a volunteer fire department and admitted to routine use of that radio on the fire channel for fire operations!

Commercial equipment designed and approved by the FCC for use on the ham bands is *not* approved to transmit on any other frequencies, with the possible exception of MARS and

CAP frequencies. On the other hand, equipment designed and approved for commercial frequencies *may* be used on the ham bands and may be modified to permit such operation if necessary. However such modifications must be done by someone possessing an FCC commercial electronic technician license if use on any commercial frequency is to continue. **BUT AT NO TIME OR FOR ANY REASON MAY HAM EQUIPMENT MAY BE USED ON FIRE OR OTHER COMMERCIAL FREQUENCIES** even if the operator has proper authorization to use the frequency.

Now there *are* valid uses for ham equipment which can transmit out-of-band. Other than MARS and CAP, two which quickly come to mind are use as signal generators and as excitors/local oscillators to drive transverters for operation in other ham bands. For these reasons, owning or modifying ham equipment for out-of-band transmission capability is not illegal. But the moment it's keyed up to an antenna on a non-ham frequency it's very illegal, and if it's done unintentionally on an emergency frequency it may be construed as interference to that emergency service.

It's my understanding that no action will be taken against the ham with regard to this particular incident. But I have been formally requested by the Pikes Peak Fire Fighters Association, on behalf of the El Paso County Sheriff's Department, to remind all local hams that illegal use of ham transceivers on fire channels will not be tolerated. All local fire department chiefs are being reminded of this at their next scheduled meeting and are being informed that continued violation of this FCC regulation in the future may result in formal action being taken against the individuals and/or fire department(s) concerned.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 14, 1995

The general membership meeting was opened at 7:03 p.m. by the President Steve Westby, WB7VHR, upon determining a quorum of the membership was present. Members and guests introduced themselves. Several newly licensed amateurs were present.

The treasurer's report was given by Ron, NKØP.

The minutes of the May 17, 1995 meeting, as published in the Ø-Beat, were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

R.A.C., E.S. No report.

A.R.E.S. Liaison: Mike, KØTER, reminded the members that the A.R.E.S. HF nets are held on 3928 KHz on Sunday morning, 8:30 local time and VHF Nets are on Tuesday night on the 146.97 repeater.

Public Service: Mike, KØTER, said there will be more activities coming up after the Hill Climb.

He will be looking for volunteers.

Field Day: Jeff briefed us on the plans for the June 24 & 25 Field Day. Planning to completed and all is a go. Everyone is encouraged to come and visit the field site at the Air Force Academy Picnic Grounds. Setup will begin after lunch on Friday.

Skywarn: Steve announced that Skywarn has been busy with the recent storms. A new paging capability using the 97 repeater is now under test.

Interference: Dave NØION reported on a inadvertent interference on the County Fire Net. Everyone is cautioned that amateur radio are not legal on the public safety bands.

Ø-BEAT Editor: Kathie, NØYTQ, reminded everyone that the cutoff date for the next Ø-BEAT is June 20. Kathie and John will not be able to continue as Zero-Beat co-editors because of other commitments.

Programs: John, NØURR, announced it will be leaving the area and he will be resigning from the Board. We all want to thank John for the wonderful programs he has brought to the PPRAA meeting.

Thanks again and good luck John. The guest speaker for the July meeting will be from E.O.S.S.

Swapfest: Harry and Rosie thanked everyone for their help in making Thanks again to Harry, WA3EIB and Rosie, WAØMNL for a successful swapfest.

Old Business: Hal Bergeson, WØMXY, reminded the us of the Central States VHF Society symposium. It is a meeting for VHF enthusiast. Don't miss this one.

New Business: Nominations will be accepted for the Vice President position. Election will be at the July meeting.

Hammy award : The Hammy Award was presented to Doc, WØMCT on behalf of the families members who support the amateur radio operators by Les KCØNC. Congratulation to Doc.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Warren, WØYNE, Secretary

PPRAA Board of Directors Meeting

June 19, 1995

The Board of Directors meeting was opened by Steve, WB7VHR at 7:00 pm at the home of Ron, NKØP. Board members present were: Steve, Pres, WB7VHR; Warren, Sec, WØYNE; Ron, Tres, NKØP; Jill, AAØTH; Ora Marie, NØQJX; John, NØURR; Kathie, NØYTQ; Mike, NØOCZ; Jeff, NØWPA and Harry, NØFSP.

The treasurer report had not changed since the general membership meeting.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were accepted as published in Ø-Beat.

Old Business:

Swapfest: The board discussed the position of next year's Swapfest chairman. Steve will contact a potential chairman. The membership will be advised upon the persons acceptance.

Field Day: Jeff moved that \$150 be provided for field day food. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. A motion was made by Steve to approve \$30 for guy wire. A check will be issued to Rick, KDØSU. A motion was made to provide \$120 for stakes and safety guys. A check will be issued to Harry upon presentation of receipts.

New Business:

The resignation of John Martin, NØURR, was discussed by the Board. Several candidate was discussed. The nomination and election will be held at the July membership meeting.

Ron presented a letter from Oak, KØROL, who would like to donate some amateur item to PPRAA. The Board greatfully accepted them and will discuss how best to use them at later meeting.

The resignation of Kathie NØYTQ and Mike NØOCZ Beat editors was discussed by the Board. Ron, NKØP, will editor the next issue. Jeff and Renay Boyes have volunteered to become Co-editors for the Ø-beat. The Board would like to thank Jeff and Renay for picking up this important club function and the great job done by Kathie and Mike.

The picnic will be held the 13th of Aug at the AFA Picnic Ground #3. Jeff, NØWPA moved to provide \$200 for the Picnic. Motion was seconded by Harry, NØSFP. Motion passed.

The Board discussed the need for funds to support the Interference Committee. It was moved by Jeff, NØSFP that the Board approve \$50 for a limited number of filters to be on hand.

Ham, NØSFP suggested that we have a special activities meeting night to discuss unique aspects of amateur. The membership will be polled for their inputs on frequency.

Ron brought up the non-payment of Ø-Beat account by one of our advertiser. An alternative method of payment will be considered. Ron will approach the advertiser with this suggestion.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, WØYNE, Secretary.



OMYL LUNCH BUNCH

The July get together will be on July 20th at the Home Town Buffet. We meet at noon. You do not need to have a Ham license. Hope to see you!

NOTE: No August Meeting! See you at the Club Picnic!

73's
Rosie Calaway, WAØMNL
471-9965

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Fox Hunt!

The El Paso County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is planning a non-competitive transmitter hunt for the afternoon of July 16th. That is, we expect everyone to have fun and not be pressured to beat someone else to the fox. This also gives you plenty of time to fine-tune that DF antenna you've been wanting to finish.

You don't have to be a member of RACES or any other group to participate. This is strictly a FUN event.

At about 1300 (1 pm) everyone who wants to participate will meet at the southeast corner of the Citadel Mall parking lot. We'll take about 30 minutes to gather and examine each other's DF equipment, then the fox will announce the start of the hunt.

If you want to hunt individually or in a group, by my guest. By doing the hunt by yourself,

you'll learn how well your antenna is designed and see just how difficult it is to find the fox. Working in a group is perhaps more realistic in terms of tracking down an open mike.

The fox will supply the hunters with an occasional signal on a 2-meter simplex frequency to be announced. All hunters are free to do any group coordination on any other frequency or frequency band. There will be a time limit on the hunt - we don't want any hunters getting lost in the dark or running out of gas! Besides after too long it's no fun anymore.

Tune in to the RACES net on Tuesday nights at 2100 on 146.97- for more information. See you there.

WB7WHT

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Please note: Please submit a completed application form along with your check to the treasurer. This applies to new membership as well as renewals. Thank you.